

Bomb threats delivered via text messages

By PABLO LOPEZ
McCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

FRESNO, Calif. (MCT) — Hoover High canceled a student rally Friday because of anonymous text messages that threatened a campus shooting.

Across town, students at Sunnyside High and Ayer Elementary schools went into a 30-minute lockdown Friday for the same reason: someone had threatened students via anonymous text messages.

The threats were the latest in a string this week that caused concern in Valley schools, highlighting what officials say is a growing problem — a high-tech version of pulling the fire alarm.

"It appears to be a new fad," said Jake Bragonier, spokesman for the Madera Unified School District. He called text messaging this generation's version of the telephone bomb scare.

Madera Unified has yet to deal with threatening text messages, but officials think it's just a matter of time, Bragonier said.

The problem doesn't just affect schools. Authorities say text messages have been used to scam Fresno residents, spread fear in other cities about gang initiations and fuel race riots in Australia.

It's usually done anonymously. The sender generally can remain anonymous by blocking the caller-ID function on his or her cell phone.

"The technology gives them a disguise," said Eric Hickey, a Fresno State University criminologist and the forensic studies director for San Francisco-based Alliant International University.

Just this week, five high schools in the Valley have had to deal with threatening text messages. Police investigated the incidents, but no one has been arrested.

"It's frustrating for police, because kids see this stuff on the news and want to copy it," Reedley Sgt. Todd Lowery said Friday.

And school officials say they have to take all the threats seriously, even if it's not initially clear whether there's any substance to them. The proliferation of cell phones doesn't help, but many parents want their children to have them in case of an emergency on campus.

Text messages, Web postings

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Malcolm X festival



photo by Bill Wendt

D. Kevin Williams performs Malcolm X's famous "The Ballot or the Bullet" Speech at the Milo Bail Student Center on Thursday. The 1964 speech urged blacks to fight for civil rights in America.

JILLIAN WHITNEY
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

A native of Omaha, Malcolm X was celebrated and remembered April 2 and April 3 by an annual event at UNO.

The Department of Black Studies hosted its seventh Malcolm X festival in the Milo Bail Student Center.

The event brought a variety

of speakers and forum topics to explore and raised awareness of Malcolm X and his significance in current times. This year's theme was "The Ballot or the Bullet: Politics and Malcolm X."

"I think this festival puts his ideology and goals into a future perspective, how his teachings, perhaps, impact issues of today, ... how his thinking challenges us to address new injustices," said

Chancellor John Christensen.

The theme of the festival was chosen to incorporate both current political issues and the words and life of Malcolm X.

"The students who attended the festival got to experience and learn about the current issues in Black studies and specifically issues about Malcolm X," said Peggy Jones, the interim chair of the black studies department and

See **MALCOLM X**: Page 2

State fair one step closer to Grand Island

TAYLOR MULLER
NEWS EDITOR

A plan to move the Nebraska State Fair from Lincoln to Grand Island received initial support from the Nebraska Legislature as well as NU President James B. Milliken.

Last Thursday, the Legislature voted 44-3, giving first round approval to relocate the state fair by 2010 and give the State Fair Park property to the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

State Fair Park has been the fair's home since 1901.

"The State Fair and the University of Nebraska are two historic and important institutions. I am confident that a State Fair in Grand Island will showcase the best of Nebraska agriculture, industry, commerce and the arts," Milliken said in a statement. "The university has been, and will continue to be, actively involved in many aspects of the Fair."

UNL has pursued State Fair Park for almost two years, hoping to change the property into a \$1 billion "Innovation Park," providing a center for research and development near UNL's campus, similar to UNO's Peter Kiewit Institute.

The construction would allow for UNL to take advantage of research coming out of both City and East campuses, said UNL Chancellor Harvey Perlman.

The plan, Legislative Bill 1116, has been supported by the University of Nebraska as well as Gov. Dave Heineman.

LB 1116 stipulates that the university would contribute \$21.5 million in private and university funds to help smooth the fair's transition to Grand Island.

"Today, the Agriculture Committee made an important decision about Nebraska's future," Milliken said. "By voting to make property next to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln available for a research and development campus, the committee recognized that the best use of this land is to encourage innovation, research and private investment that can create new jobs for Nebraska."

The Unicameral is expected to continue debating the bill this week.

Smoking resolution sent back for revision

BRIAN MOODY
CONTRIBUTOR

A resolution limiting smoking to designated areas on campus was sent back for revision after being discussed by the Student Senate. The resolution required more proof of specific problems with smokers on campus before any sort of campus-wide ban could be instated.

Senate Vice President Buey Ruet said Sen. Holly Byers' resolution had good intentions, but that data showing the effects

of smoking should be collected before approving additional restrictions.

"We do not have any concrete statistics to indicate there's a direct correlation between the secondary smoke and the asthma attacks," Ruet said. "Once we have these statistics, and once we have these direct correlations, then we could move forward."

School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation professor David Corbin addressed the senate during its March 27 meeting.

"I believe it's a reasonable

compromise," Corbin said during the meeting. "It allows people the opportunity to decide, both smokers and non-smokers where the areas might be."

In 2007, a ban was imposed for the library's walkway.

Audrey DeFrank, the library's public service director, said on behalf of Criss Library Dean Steve Shorb that the walkway ban had high compliance and few problems.

"We've had some really good experiences," DeFrank said. "It's really increased the cleanliness on the walkway. We

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Repeal of prohibition event at Nebraska Brewing Company

www.unogateway.com

Planning for UNMC



Becoming a doctor takes a lot of preparation, including taking specific courses as an undergraduate.

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Soap or antigerms gel?



Soap and water is more effective than antibacterial gels, but some students still prefer their own systems.

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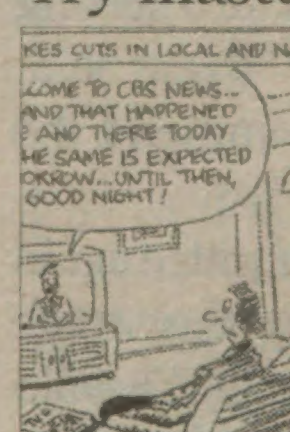
Softball 10-0 at home



The Maverick softball team finished out the weekend with a perfect 10-0 so far at home.

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Try masturbation



An Arizona columnist argues that masturbation is given a bad rap and deserves to not be shunned.

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Penn State group combats intoxicated sex

JENNA EKDAHL
DAILY COLLEGIAN (PENN STATE)

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. (U-WIRE) – Pennsylvania State University Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance adviser Spring Cooper thinks only when students are cognizant enough to tackle a Rubik's Cube are they capable of having sex.

"Wait until you can do the puzzle, then you're safe to have sex," Cooper said.

Starting this weekend, FMLA, an on-campus organization that works to develop strategies and programs to advance women's equality, will distribute Rubik's Cubes, among other puzzles and toys, in an effort to promote awareness about safer sex.

The campaign, called Sober Sex is Safer Sex, is funded by a mini-grant from the Penn State Commission for Substance Abuse Prevention and will run for several weeks to raise awareness about safer sex, Cooper said.

The toys will have messages attached to them about practicing safe sex while sober. The idea behind the toys is that people need cognitive processing skills to solve the puzzles, Cooper said.

Activities that raise awareness and get students thinking and talking about their sexual behaviors are a good thing, University Health Services Marketing Manager Beth Collitt said.

"Certainly the toys that they're handing out will do it because it will help you stop and think for a minute about how impaired you really are," Collitt said.

Fliers with redesigned road signs with sayings such as "Do Not Enter While Intoxicated" will soon be prevalent throughout campus and downtown to remind people of the campaign's message, Cooper said.

"A lot of people don't really think of a drunk hookup as a problem ... because it was when they were drunk, so they don't think of it as counting," Cooper said. "Things that could possibly happen are still there."

Pregnancy, sexual assault and rape are several consequences Cooper outlined that relate to having unprotected sex or having sex while intoxicated. From 2004-06, 282 Penn State students sought assistance for sexual assault, according to "Policies, Safety, & U," a University publication that reports statistics about crime in the Penn State community. Of those incidents, 217 involved drugs or alcohol.

"We have a huge problem with drinking and sexual assault, rape and not using condoms," Cooper said. "We wanted to do something about that."

The toys will be distributed in areas downtown that usually have an accumulation of intoxicated people, Cooper said, though she was not sure of exact locations.

She discussed two aspects of the group's goal: the immediate and the long-term. Primarily, the group wishes to raise awareness about unprotected or intoxicated sex. After a while, she hopes there will be a decrease in the number of unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections and sexual assault cases among students.

The group is also trying to eliminate the connection between alcohol and sex, said FMLA member Noopur Pathak, a senior in mathematics.

"Something like sex is important enough to be aware of," Pathak said. "You should know what you're doing."

The campaign also hopes to educate women that they "should be aware that they are confident enough without needing alcohol" to have sex, Pathak said.

"It's not only more risky in terms of consequences, it's also unpleasurable and not as fun," Cooper said.

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an assistant professor. "We had a fantastic turnout this year. People were very, very supportive. I think this year will be record-breaking in regards to turnout."

Malcolm X was a leader of the civil rights movement and one of the leaders of the Nation of Islam with the goal of teaching American blacks about God and promote self-independence. After a falling out with the organization in 1964, Malcolm X created the Organization of African American Unity and Muslim Mosque Incorporated before being assassinated in 1965.

"Malcolm X was amazing. I think he was a man ahead of his times, as a lot of great leaders are. I think he is an amazingly interesting person," Jones said. "Malcolm had such depth, and he was such an inspiration. He said things that weren't popular things, but they were true then and to

some degree are still true now."

One of the events featured in the Malcolm X festival was a theatrical interpretation of Malcolm X's famous speech, "The Ballot or the Bullet," performed by D. Kevin Williams, a local Omaha actor and drama teacher.

Williams said his interpretation created a concrete way to show Malcolm X's ideas.

"I think there needs to be more information about Malcolm X and his life readily accessible in the educational venues. You shouldn't have to go to black studies to learn about an American social icon like him," Williams added, "People in Omaha should know and learn about Omaha icons like Malcolm X."

Along with Williams' performance, Cathy Draine, a graduate student from Brandeis University, shared poems

and writings called, "Any Metaphor Necessary: The Power of a Word Warrior."

Draine hoped her performance would inspire students to realize they have a say in politics, regardless of their chosen profession.

"I'm really interested in young creative talent - how we define ourselves, how we see that we are a voice. You have a political voice regardless of what your field or major is. It helps the cause to have diversity in the masses. I think that's the big thing I want people to take away from my performance," Draine said.



photo by Joe Shearer
Peggy Jones discusses black art's impact on history during the Malcolm X festival.

From **RESOLUTION**: Page 1

don't have as many cigarette butts. You don't have to walk through a cloud of smoke, and it has really improved the general attractiveness in front of the library."

Byers said a 2006 student smoking ban survey, which was the catalyst for the library ban, showed that students supported a campus-wide smoking ban.

"I saw that a lot of students wanted to ban smoking - they supported a total ban," Byers said. "Some more supported a partial ban. I realized a lot of people were for some sort of ban. Administration wanted it, and the faculty senate wanted it, too. But now, it's our turn to voice our opinions, and that's what this resolution is hoping to do."

In the poll 926 students (62.44 percent polled) approved of a campus-wide ban. 1008 students (67.97 percent polled) supported a ban on the main corridor of campus from Durham Science Center to Kayser Hall.

It was also noted that Campus Security currently has little to do with smoking policies and enforcement.

"The [university administration] hasn't been clear on how this would be enforced," Ruet said. "They haven't been clear on the compliance rate of smokers on campus."

Corbin said he did not foresee a problem with compliance if a resolution was passed; similar to the experiences at the Criss Library, he foresaw few issues.

"Fortunately, with the laws in Omaha, with the laws in Lincoln that have been passed and the way they've been done in other countries, most people will comply when you pass them," Corbin said.

After being told revision was necessary, Byers said in an e-mail to the *Gateway* that she would be working to clarify the resolutions goals.

"With these changes and the additional factual support, I'm sure the senate will consider all the facts, remember what the speakers said at the previous senate meeting and recognize this for the compromise it is," Byers said. "With that in mind, I'm confident they will commend the resolution."

The revised resolution passed through committee again last week and is expected to be considered by the senate Thursday evening. The meeting will take place in the Milo Bail Student Center at 7 p.m. in the Dodge Room.

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and phone calls about possible violence caused hundreds of high school students to skip school in the towns of Reedley and Sanger, Calif., earlier this week. The rumors then spread to nearby Orange Cove, Calif., where they caused a commotion at the high school campus but not a lockdown.

"They want the hoopla, the sirens and the chance to get out of class," Lowery said. "But all they are doing is causing notoriety for their schools."

Hoover High went into lockdown Thursday after several students received text messages that threatened a lunch time shooting. Those text messages also caused Hoover officials to cancel Friday's sports rally, said Fresno Unified School District's spokeswoman Susan Bedi.

"We are taking the threats seriously," said Bedi.

Deputy Chief Robert Nevarez said the incidents at Hoover and Sunnyside appear to be unrelated. The only link is that text messages were involved.

The messages Sunnyside students received were cryptic. "One message said the school was going to have issues relating to guns and explosions," Nevarez said.

The second message said: "Hello, here's how it's going to blow, I mean go."

Though a police dog found no evidence of guns or bombs on the Sunnyside campus, Nevarez said extra officers were assigned to the campus Friday.

"Campus safety is a priority," Nevarez said, pointing out that the perpetrator could face felony charges - if he or she can ever be identified.

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Features

Pamela Bouterse | Features Editor

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features@unogateway.com | April 8, 2008

Planning for a future at the NU Medical Center

JUDY HANSEN
CONTRIBUTOR

For many of us, the thought of becoming a successful doctor seems as lofty as becoming a powerful Manhattan lawyer or a rich entrepreneur. However, for some UNO students, the dream may someday be a reality.

The University of Nebraska Medical Center is a local option for students to earn degrees from any of the four colleges: medicine, nursing, dentistry or pharmacy.

"We see lots and lots of UNO students across all of our programs," said David Crouse, who teaches at UNMC and has served as associate vice chancellor for academic affairs and as executive associate dean for graduate studies.

He said UNO has excellent advisers who can help students choose the right undergraduate classes to take. However, he said he sees many students limit their options by being dead-set on medical school and ignoring other potential health careers.

"Don't discount nursing and other health professions that are in great demand, because they have good salaries, and we have a big, big need," Crouse said. "We encourage people to open their eyes and start looking at all the health sciences."

Although Crouse advised students to consider career alternatives, he cautioned students not to take too long in deciding their path. Most fields require years of undergraduate prerequisite classes.

"If you're going to medical school, you have to know what you want to do," he said. "It's a lengthy process."

By the beginning of senior year, Crouse said students should have already completed the necessary classes to prepare for required national standardized tests. After the test comes an application process with soaring standards.

"There are high academic expectations in all the programs," Crouse said. "[A grade of] 'B' is OK for some programs, but others expect much higher performance. Our average entrance GPA for medicine is more like 3.75."

To the relief of some hopefuls, grades are not the only component UNMC considers.



photo by Pamela Bouterse

The University of Nebraska Medical Center is one of only two hospitals in the entire country to be named Distinguished Hospital for Cardiovascular Excellence, according to their Web site, nebraskamed.com.

"If students have zero participation in anything outside academics, even if they have a sterling GPA and test score, it's harder to know what they're like," Crouse said. "You shouldn't be a single-sided person who's only academic, but a more rounded individual. We look for sports, extracurricular activities, music and student government – not somebody who's just a book rat."

professionals and more local students will achieve their dreams.

"We do everything we can to get students through the programs so they can have a high success rate when they get out," Crouse said. "You have to decide what you expect to do with the rest of your life; how you see yourself fitting into society."

In addition to sending paperwork, applicants of most UNMC programs must attend an "interview day" with the admissions committee between January and March.

"They get a personal look at you and a chance to chat with you before final decisions are made," Crouse said. "They can see if the paper matches the person."

Usually by March, Crouse said the entire incoming student body has been selected and classes are "capped." He also said entry to UNMC is quite competitive.

"We currently take 122 medical students each year," Crouse explained. "That number will go up in a couple years, when we move to a new building. The final number hasn't been set yet, but it will go up about 10 percent."

That means 10 percent more hopefuls will be accepted, as Omaha will produce more health

Circle K: Serving the community

NICOLE HIGGINBOTHAM
ASST. NEWS/SPORTS EDITOR

Julie Felt, like most UNO students, spends her spare time studying and hanging out with friends.

However, in addition to her standard routine, Felt has another responsibility. She serves as the president of Circle K, UNO's community service organization.

The UNO chapter of Circle K was started in 2002 with the mission to "live to serve and love to serve." Since then, this organization has participated in many community service projects: serving dinner at the Ronald McDonald House, cleaning up Keystone Park, helping with the MavKids and Family Fun Center Halloween parties, collecting cans for the Bell Tower Challenge, running a Corporate Cup Run water stop, participating in the Adopt-A-School program with Liberty Elementary, volunteering with the Special Olympics

and contributing to the Children's Book Drive.

"[During] the week of Thanksgiving, a few Circle K members joined together with Kiwanis members and delivered food baskets to people less fortunate," said Sunny Forrest, the secretary of Circle K, in an e-mail. "They were all so grateful and it was nice to know we were helping them have an enjoyable holiday."

Circle K is one of 17 clubs in the Nebraska-Iowa district and is the collegiate version of the Kiwanis, an international organization dedicated to serving youth.

Winning awards like Outstanding Organization of 2006-07 and Outstanding Club Officers in the Nebraska-Iowa District for president, vice president, treasurer and bulletin editor, the UNO Circle K organization has also received notable recognition in the community.

"My involvement in this organization has got me caring about the community and others around me," said Matthew Fast, treasurer of Circle K. "It's helped me learn about non-profit organizations and really helped me to meet others who have the same care for the community."

Future projects for this organization are already in line. In April, Circle K will be having a drive week that will follow with the Special Olympics and the Ronald McDonald dinner in May.

"Circle K fits everyone's major," said Felt. "If you're elementary education, we volunteer at Liberty Elementary. If you're going into the medical field, professional schools look at how much you give back to the community. If you're a business major, your networking will increase with local businessmen and women."

Circle K has meetings every other Monday in the Jenkins Room on the third floor of the Milo Bail Student Center. For more information, contact Julie Felt at jfelt@mail.unomaha.edu or visit the Web site at unomaha.edu/circlek.

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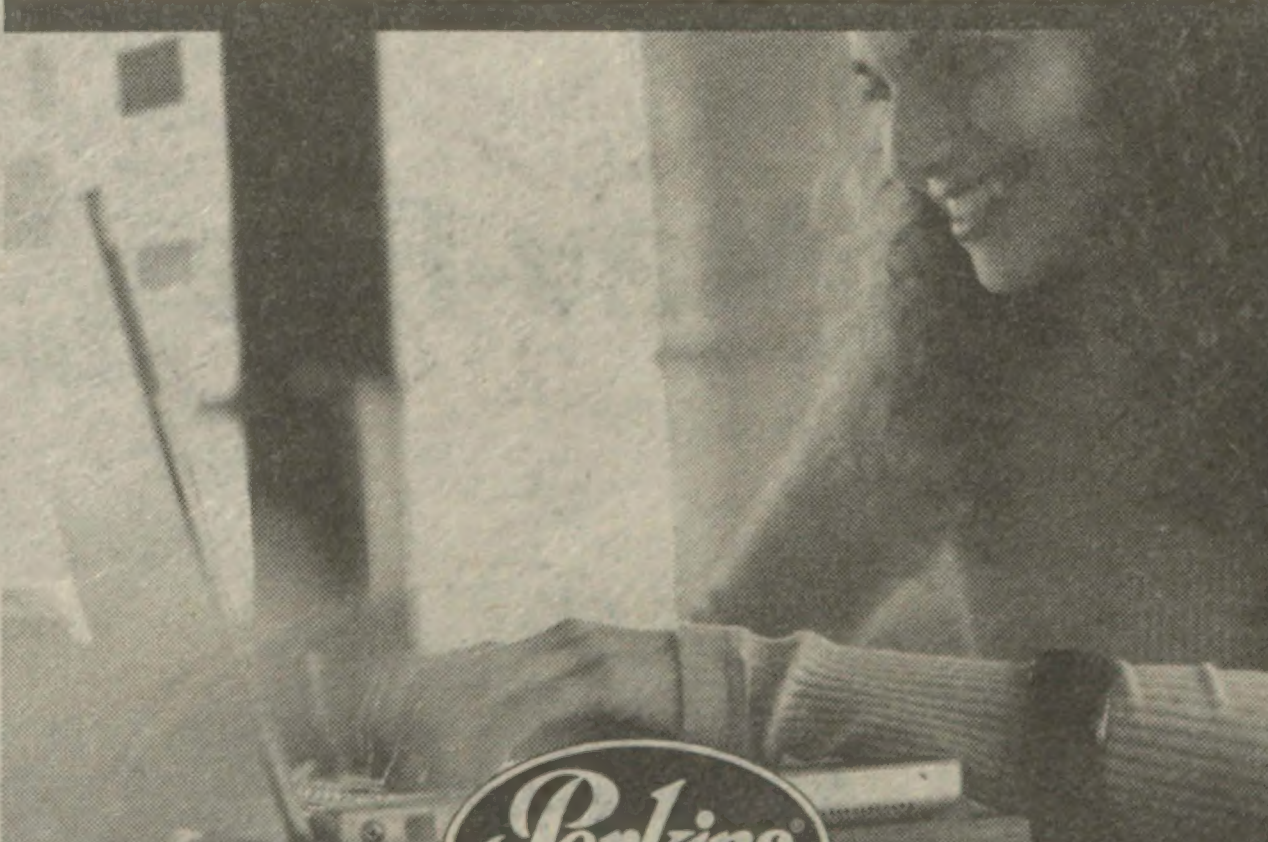
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Hand hygiene questions answered

JENNY RUTH
CONTRIBUTOR

Brandon Sibert, a UNO sophomore, is the average student. He comes to class, he works full time and he goes home.

Being a parent of two and working in a building with 1,200 others, he encounters many germs every day. Not to mention the ones he picks up at school.

"I wash my hands usually after every time I use the restroom and when I get them dirty or feel that I need to wash them," Sibert said. "I prefer hand sanitizer. It's quicker and I don't always have the opportunity to wash my hands when I need to."

According to Gerry Tan, M.D., in his "That Health Rules" blog, docgerrytan.com, the largest organ of the body is its skin, which makes it the biggest carrier of bacteria.

Tan said that 30 seconds of soap and water removes on 58 percent of bacteria versus alcohol-based moist towelettes, which removes 83 percent of bacteria.

The University of Nebraska Medical Center recently studied whether the use of antibacterial hand gels would reduce the rate of hospital-acquired infections in hopes of increasing better hygiene in two intensive care units.

Hand cultures were performed on the nurses every 60 days for the two-year duration at the Nebraska Medical Center. The study was published in the journal, "Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology."

The study concluded that, though the rate of hand hygiene compliance doubled, a reduction in hospital-acquired infections, called nosocomial infections, was not found.

"Although we did not see a dramatic reduction in hospital-acquired infections corresponding to the increase in hand hygiene, these results should not be interpreted to mean that hand hygiene is not important," Mark Rupp, professor of infectious diseases at UNMC, said in a statement. "There are many factors that influence the development of hospital-acquired infections. It would be naive to think that a single, simple intervention would fix this problem."

Marcia Adler, director of UNO's Student Health Services, had not heard of the study, but did support it.

Adler said that hand hygiene is a huge thing. Student Health Services follows hand-washing guidelines set up by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. All sinks in exam rooms have signs on how to properly wash hands.

"With gel sanitizer, you have to rub the wet off," Adler said. "That can reduce its effectiveness."

UNO student Daniel Koziol had a different reason for preferring water.

"[Gel sanitizer] feels gross and slimy on my hand," Koziol said.

Koziol is not obsessive about hand washing but tries to wash them after things like blowing his nose.

Adler said hand washing is only effective when it involves a minimum of 15 seconds of friction with soap. She went on to say that the using pocket sanitizers are good for quick uses. Student Health Services tries to eliminate infections by passing out sanitizer packets.

Adler's advice to students is that if you have access to soap and water, use it.

"Hand sanitizers are like second tier," Adler said.

What DO you USE ?

antibacterial gel vs. soap

COMPILED BY
BILL WENDL
SR. STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Leah Dale
Freshman, marketing

"Both, because I guess you could say I am kind of a germaphobe. And you see right now I am sick, so it helps prevent me from getting sick. I just use both of them."



Joi Langlois
Senior, art history

"[Soap and water] because there were no antibacterial gels when I was growing up. [Also] antibacterial gels have not been proven to be effective as soap and water."



Edward Porter
Junior, political science

"I use both together. I wash my hands and use antibacterial gel. Then I use a paper towel to open the door after I get done doing that. ... You don't know what people have been touching."



Gerrell Smith
Junior, environmental sociology

"From what I've read and learned in class it is a bad thing to use [antibacterial gel], because bacteria is good for you a lot of it to keep up your immunities. I use [antibacterial gel and soap], at school but I don't go out of the way to buy it at home."



Cody Wolf
Junior, business

"Antibacterial gel. I guess just because of the word antibacterial. It just seems like it gets things cleaner. Less bacteria equals less colds."

**I WANT
TEAM SPIRIT
GLORY**
AND NOT TO SHOW UP IN FULL
UNIFORM FOR A GAME THAT WAS
CANCELLED THREE DAYS AGO.

Softball

Sunday

Pink Zebras 4 vs Ballz Deep 5
F.O.C.U.S vs 2 Legit 2 Quit (Forfeit)
He Bleeded's - Bye
The Underachievers vs One Armed Bandits (Forfeit)
Injured Ducks vs Hometown Heros (Forfeit)

4x4 Flag Football

Sunday

Dog in a Bath Tub vs 1234 (Forfeit)
Crazy Spoons 32 vs The Firm 7
The Fighting Mongoose vs Patriots (Forfeit)
Highlight Staplers- Bye
The Referees 28 vs B304 29
P-Town Finest (Forfeit) vs Team Schnarf Schnarf
Off 12 vs Sexy Whistle 28
Aftershock- Bye
Juice (Forfeit) vs A Generic Team Team
Sig Ep 0 vs M.O.B. Squad 28
En Fuego 21 vs Mansized Penguins 28
Steel Curtain- Bye

4x4 Volleyball

Sunday

Bye Week 1-2 vs Creepers 2-1
Bulldogs vs Power Rangers (Forfeit)
Team Fork vs Wolfpack (Forfeit)
Gravity- Bye
Jackass vs This Won't take Long (Forfeit)
The Slammers 0-2 vs Smokin Aces 2-0
Practice Safe Sets- Bye

Wii Bowling

L.E.G. vs Gotham City Puppies (Forfeit)
Strikers- Bye

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UNO softball: 28 and counting

Mav pitching trio flourishing at season's midway point

JASON SIBSON
SPORTS EDITOR

The UNO softball team extended its winning streak to six games on Saturday after overpowering North Dakota en route to a double-header sweep.

The Mavericks are now a perfect 10-0 at Claussen-Westgate fields this season and have cruised to a 28-6 overall record through Sunday.

A roster filled with experience has done its part to ensure success in the first half of this season. UNO's lineup features 12 Mavericks, including the program's all-time RBI leader Leslie Svoboda, that were a part of last year's North Central Regional Championship team. This season's club has produced a North Central Conference-best five RBIs per game.

The proverbial X-factor for this year's Mavericks, though, has been the accelerated development of one of the conference's top pitching rotations.

Sophomore Melissa Negrete, junior Alyssa Fligg and freshman Beth Haley didn't even share dugout space with one another before this season. Now, the three relatively inexperienced hurlers are sharing space on the NCC leader board in nearly every major statistical category.

Negrete is the only one of the three to have

experience against Division II lineups prior to this season. As a UNO freshman last year, Negrete notched a 2.08 ERA in 30 appearances.

In 14 starts and 18 appearances this season, Negrete is 9-2 and heads the staff with a 2.03 ERA. Her 3-0 record and 1.96 ERA in 25 innings of work last week was enough to earn her NCC pitcher of the week honors.

Fligg is a transfer from Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa, Iowa. In 12 appearances this season, Fligg has compiled a 7-2 record and has established herself as the power pitcher of the staff. Her seven strikeouts per game are third-best in the conference.

In the second game of Saturday's double-header against the Fighting Sioux, Fligg came on in relief of Negrete in the midst of a 4-4 tie. Fligg held UND scoreless for the final 2 1/3 innings as UNO's bats heated up, and she earned her seventh win of the season.

Haley has carried a mighty load for the Mavericks so far in 2008. The freshman from Highland, Ind., tops the rotation with 89 innings pitched. She hails an 11-2 record and owns UNO's only two saves this season.

Haley has turned in two complete games in as many outings, including a five-hit, zero-walk, scoreless gem against Missouri Western on Friday.

The rotation of Negrete, Fligg and Haley has the NCC's lowest average in walks, doubles and homeruns allowed per game. They have induced more ground outs than any other team in the conference this season, yet their strikeout average is still among the best in the league.

More importantly, the trio is winning – a lot. The staff is driving a team that is on pace for its first 50-win season since 2001.

So, how did that year turn out for Head Coach Jeanne Scarpello and company?

The UNO softball team was hailed, for the first and only time in the program's history, National Champion of Division II.



photo by Michelle Bishop
Sophomore Melissa Negrete earned the NCC pitcher of the week honor last week after going 3-0 on the mound last week.



photo by Michelle Bishop
Catcher Brianna Cataudella celebrates with pitcher Beth Haley. Haley picked up the win in game one on Saturday as the Mavs beat UND 7-2.

Track, field team moves outdoors

SEAN OWENS
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The UNO track team moved outdoors for the first time in 2008, when they competed in the Jock's Nitch Northwest Open in Maryville, Mo., on March 5.

Saturday's competition produced a plethora of wins for the Mavericks, including titles in the distance and short sprinting events.

Junior sprinter Molly Belling took a first-place finish in both the 100- and 200-meter events with times of 12.16 and 25.06, respectively.

The two outdoor wins preceeded late season let-down at the Division II Indoor National Meet, held almost three weeks ago.

"I was really excited to run," Belling said. "For taking time off, I thought I did pretty well. Now that the first one is out of the way, I feel really good about it."

Adding to the success of Belling was senior distance runner Kaylen Harris. Harris took home a title in her



Molly Belling



Kaylen Harris

2008 outdoor debut, the 10,000-meter run. The run marks the beginning of the final outdoor season in her illustrious career.

"Kaylen did a really good job out there," Belling said. "I think we were all excited about how we came out and competed."

The UNO field team also captured a title on Saturday. Sophomore Heather Minssen took the shot-put title for the Mavericks with a throw of 41 feet, six inches.

The event marked the first field event title for UNO in the outdoor season. It also raised the confidence level for the field team as they prepare to make one final run at a North Central Conference title.

"I think we will have a good fight for the final conference title in the NCC," Belling said. "We are excited about the opportunity to succeed as a team, as well as individually, in our final time to represent the North Central Conference."

The team will next move on to competition in the Concordia University Invitational on April 12, followed by a trip to California on April 18 for the Azusa Pacific and Long Beach invites.

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College gun rights merit reflection

The following appeared as a signed column by Hannah Nelson at the University of Massachusetts' Massachusetts Daily Collegian on Friday, April 4.

AMHERST, Mass. (U-WIRE) - In Louisiana there's a state legislation up for vote that would allow college students and professors to carry handguns in light of the wave of school shootings. This sort of proposal has been tossed around in the past, but now more than ever it's being acted on.

I'm all for the right to bare arms, but this concept can sound frightening in all actuality. Oklahoma's House of Representatives has already passed its bill and is on its way to the Senate, with other states following suite.

Louisiana's bill going up for vote is very similar in structure to the Alabama bill. Louisiana would prevent the colleges from making their own school prohibitions against the firearms if it was passed, leaving campuses that don't agree in a tight spot.

Utah students have been carrying concealed guns for the past year. Many students there reference the Virginia Tech shooting as the turning point for feeling unsafe on campus.

Primarily this has been an issue for the larger campuses across the country, which makes for an unsettling reminder for students on a campus the size of UMass.

Other states examining the issue are Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Ohio, Oklahoma, and South Carolina, with failed action in Mississippi, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, and Washington.

Massachusetts is as liberal as they come, and as a liberal state it is not likely guns will be allowed on campus here anytime soon.

(After all, our lawmakers are all too busy making us pay astronomically for health insurance.)

The issue that one representative in Oklahoma addressed was the presence of alcohol on campuses. Campuses are usually the exception in states that allow concealed firearms to begin with, labeled as no-firearm zones.

Arguments on this issue are provided by Students for Concealed Carry on Campus, which incidentally does not have an UMass chapter, but does have 23,000 members across the country.

Their argument is: "College students can already legally purchase firearms, and every state that provides for legalized concealed carry has statutes prohibiting license holders from carrying while under the influence. Legalizing concealed carry on college campuses would neither put guns into the hands of more college students nor make it legal for a person to carry a firearm while under the influence."

The more I think about the issue at hand, the more it makes me squirm to consider the very possibility that someone sitting next to me in a lecture, let alone myself, could have a gun on them legally. It is a responsibility as well as a right.

Though for some of the states getting involved in the debate over whether or not to let their students carry, it is just as much an issue of privilege. The right to carry would be the privilege of a few, namely veterans and ROTC students.

But the thought of legalizing guns on campus to begin with does seem to come across as an encouragement nonetheless. By targeting campuses with legislature it is as if

See **GUNS**: Page 7

Governor's press office reaction abridged freedom of the press

The following appeared as a staff editorial in UNL's Daily Nebraskan on Friday, April 4.

LINCOLN (U-WIRE) - Gov. Dave Heineman's office suspended a few principles of press freedom on Thursday when it banned *Daily Nebraskan* reporters from attending the governor's press conferences at the State Capitol.

The good news is the suspension was brief, given that it was unconstitutional and stirred up a controversy the governor's office desperately wished to avoid.

The bad news is the suspension illustrates just how cavalierly Heineman's press office treats issues of press freedom. The office apparently learned about the First Amendment at the College of Journalism a la the Gulag.

The Thursday hoopla started with the *Daily Nebraskan's* main, front-page story, which broke the news that one of the tour guides at the governor's mansion is a convicted murderer. Through a Corrections Department program, Timothy Haverkamp, who was involved in the brutal torture and murder of a fellow cult member in Nebraska more than 20 years ago, has been allowed to work outside of jail at the mansion since 2001.

The governor's office did not like the story. It also did not like the way the story was reported, pointing out that the *Daily Nebraskan* initially set up a tour of the governor's mansion for an unrelated story but used reporting from that tour to write the Haverkamp story.

That chronology is accurate. But it is

absurd to contend that such a series of events represents a breach of journalism ethics.

When reporters work on stories, they sometimes come across leads for different stories. They then pursue those leads. This is how journalism works.

The governor's office, apparently, disagrees. Thursday afternoon, it contacted the *Daily Nebraskan*, relaying that the *DN* would no longer receive press releases or be allowed to attend press conferences. One communications official said the office would contact security to have *Daily Nebraskan* reporters removed if they showed up at the governor's office for a press conference.

A few hours later, after other news organizations began to question the governor's office about the press-conference ban, the office clarified its position, saying it would not invite *Daily Nebraskan* reporters to press conferences, but it would also not force them to leave.

How thoughtful of them to abstain from abridging the freedom of speech.

Adam Goldstein, the attorney advocate for the Student Press Law Center in Washington, D.C., told the *Daily Nebraskan* on Thursday that the office's reaction was "indistinguishable from a 2-year-old's temper tantrum, except the 2-year-old isn't breaking the law."

It's pretty clear that banning *DN* reporters from press conferences would break the law.

A 2006 decision by the Fourth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals probably gives the best metric to judge whether the governor's

See **GOVERNOR**: Page 7

Congratulations!

Tiffany Ackerman

VICE CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP 2008



Tiffany Ackerman describes her senior year as whirlwind. She has helped lead two campus organizations this year, serving as the president of the UNO National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) and became a co-founder of the Scott Recycling Program. NSSLHA fits with her major in speech pathology; her interest in recycling on campus comes from a desire to have UNO become more environmentally friendly and to see more students become responsible citizens. "I get excited seeing others take responsibility, leading to help make a difference," Ackerman wrote in her nomination essay. A nominator describes her as a "person of

substance who makes decisions based on ethics and integrity." In addition to her senior year volunteer work and maintaining a near perfect grade point average, Ackerman has also led projects where students have taken holiday cards to residents at an assisted living community, planned a pancake feed with the local Sertoma chapter and participated in the Nebraska Autism Community Walk.

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Students should give masturbation a chance

The following appeared as a signed column by Dan Sullivan of the University of Arizona's Arizona Daily Wildcat on Friday, April 4.

TUCSON, Ariz. (U-WIRE) – Love it or hate it – or be extremely confused about it – masturbation is a fact of life.

Though many might not consider it a part of their love lives, there's definitely a connection, and some great minds in the arts and sciences have seen it this way. In his Oscar-winning film "Annie Hall," writer-director Woody Allen openly pulled for the act: "Don't knock masturbation – it's sex with someone I love." And a recent scholarly anthology – "Masturbation as a Means of Achieving Sexual Health," edited by Walter Bockting and Eli Coleman – trumpeted the virtues of physical self-love, linking it to healthy sexual development, self-esteem and well-being in relationships.

Yet if there's one thing everyone agrees on about masturbation, it's that social stigma surrounds the activity. Masturbation remains a conceptual hot potato many don't want to be caught holding.

I asked several UA students their opinions on the topic, and although most generally saw no problem with masturbation or even admitted its role in their lives, few wanted to be quoted out of fear for their reputations. Given last July's issue of the Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy reported 61 percent of males and 38 percent of females living in the U.S. acknowledge masturbating, anxiety about discussing the issue publicly seems silly. Yet a need to repress masturbation – both as conversation topic and evening festivity – has characterized our society since before science began to call it unhealthy in the 18th century, and its sinful status is maintained by fundamentalist religious perspectives.

This is exactly why masturbation is a bit of dirty laundry worth airing out in the open. Many feel guilty or uncertain about it – but should they?

Some brave enough to share their feelings think otherwise. As Alan Mackey, a mathematics sophomore, told me: "It's ridiculous, the extent people go to vilify masturbation – saying it will deplete sperm or make you blind." Freshman Andrea Hartzell took a biological perspective befitting her major, biochemistry and molecular biophysics: "Masturbation is a natural phenomenon, observed in many animal species." She's right: Even whales have been noted to weigh anchor.

A biology student researcher of Rhesus Macaque monkeys, Robert Gibboni has witnessed such phenomena first-hand. "Solitary monkeys will rely on self-stimulation as a last resort," Gibboni said, "but given the consistency of its occurrence, it may well be a necessary behavior."

Although ethically we might not consider masturbation a case of monkey-see, monkey-do, there is a wealth of biological research on human populations weighing the potential physiological and mental benefits of masturbation. The Journal of Sexual and Relationship Therapy has published some conflicting results in recent years – while Roy Levin claims masturbation can improve quality and quantity of sperm and even the male immune system, Stuart Brody argues that the health benefits of penile-vaginal intercourse consistently exceed any effects of regular masturbatory orgasm.

Well duh, Dr. Brody – when asked, most of us would probably just as soon not fly solo on this one. But given that we are sexually active animals in a cultural environment with many norms against regular reproductive activity, yet constantly bombarded by sold sex images across media, masturbation can serve for many as a mode of letting off

steam or biding time between or before sexual relationships. People invested in the values of monogamy who haven't found Mr. or Ms. Right yet shouldn't by necessity suffer constant sexual frustration, or have to experience negative psychological consequences just because they do what Rhesus Macaques do when left in isolation.

Indeed, there may well be uniquely human psychological and existential benefits to self-stimulation. In our modern era, talk of loving yourself and taking care of your body abounds – exercising, liberating oneself from popular images of what's attractive and so forth. So why does it rub people the wrong way to assert that occasionally showing yourself the same affection you would a lover might not be a terrible thing?

Philosopher Damon Young argues beautifully from a Heideggerian perspective in his treatise "Knowing Thyself ... In Private" that masturbation helps us unearth fundamental truths about our being, our innermost fantasies and especially our relationship to a world in which we are capable of experiencing deep love and intense passion. Indeed, Karl Marx pointed out that as philosophy helps us understand reality, so masturbation aids our relation to the act of sexual intercourse.

Don't get me wrong – I recognize masturbation isn't for everyone. Many have profound religious issues to consider in connection with the issue, and scientific research indicates it can be linked with both healthy and unhealthy factors in different individuals. Yet it is unquestionably a biological and existential reality that deserves a destigmatized position in discourse on human sexuality.

From **GOVERNOR:** Page 6

ban would be unconstitutional.

The decision says it is illegal for the government to "chill" the First Amendment rights of reporters. A press-conference ban on an entire newspaper should easily fall under the category of chilling.

In the future, if the governor's office wishes to avoid a lawsuit, it should refrain from rash, infantile, unconstitutional overreactions.

More to the point, Thursday's arrogant, self-righteous, tyrannical response from the governor's press office, especially from Communications Director Jen Rae Hein, illustrates exactly the wrong way for the office to respond to criticism.

A more productive reaction might have been to explain why a convicted murderer gives tours at the governor's mansion.

That certainly would have been more productive than attacking the freedom of the press. Talk about shooting the messenger.

From **GUNS:** Page 6

it's reinforcing the feelings of poor safety and security.

If concealed weapons were allowed in all states, then I would be willing to wager that a large number of college students would not carry anyway. The very implication that this legislation could be used as a means to counteract the school shootings, as if it is a feasible remedy, is insulting. It's not going to solve the problem.

It has the potential to cause more problems on top of the existing one. A lot of concerns include how police would have to be all the more aware of suspicious student behavior. It may make the few students allowed to carry the guns feel better, but it doesn't make the issue go away, or make everyone else feel safer.

I actually don't think that this is necessarily a ridiculous concept, but rather one that requires a lot of careful handling. I am tired of the people who say that lax gun laws and accessibility are the problem.

They are not. It is a structural issue; it is an issue within our society. When it comes down to it, the problem isn't the guns; it's what makes the people turn to the violence in the first place, which is a whole other argument in itself.



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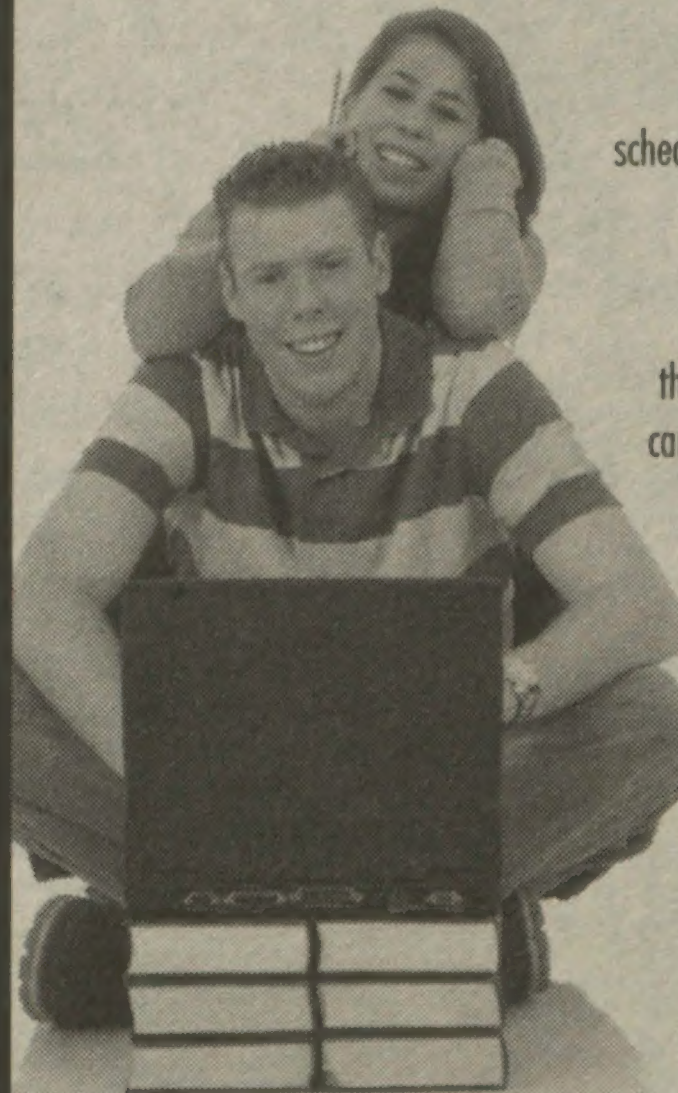
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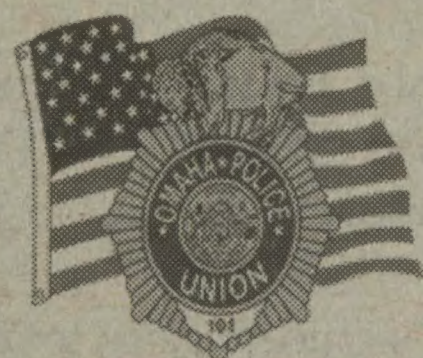


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